

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 27 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1 and 24 to 27 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 11, 14, 16 to 18, 22 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,490,052 (Yanagidaira); Claims 12, 15 and 23 were rejected under § 103(a) over Yanagidaira; and Claims 19 to 21 and 25 to 27 were rejected under § 103(a) over Yanagidaira in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,253,238 (Lauder). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, independent Claim 1 is directed to a method for supporting printer maintenance in a network environment having a server, at least one network device and a printer, the server containing a plurality of printer configuration files. The method includes the steps of accessing one of the printer configuration files which corresponds to the printer, the configuration file including a plurality of printer maintenance function names and a plurality of printer maintenance commands corresponding to the printer maintenance function names, generating an HTML-based page corresponding to the printer, the HTML-based page containing each of the printer maintenance function names from the accessed printer configuration file, and sending the HTML-based page to the network device, wherein, upon selection in the network device of one of the printer maintenance function names in the HTML-based page, the server sends to the printer the printer maintenance command which corresponds to the selected printer maintenance function name.

The applied art, namely Yanagidaira and Lauder, is not seen to disclose or suggest the foregoing features of independent Claim 1, particularly with respect to at least the features of accessing one of the printer configuration files which corresponds to the printer, the configuration file including a plurality of printer maintenance function names and a plurality of printer maintenance commands corresponding to the printer maintenance function names, generating an HTML-based page corresponding to the printer, the HTML-based page containing each of the printer maintenance function names from the accessed printer configuration file, and sending the HTML-based page to the network device, wherein, upon selection in the network device of one of the printer maintenance function names in the HTML-based page, the server sends to the printer the printer maintenance command which corresponds to the selected printer maintenance function name.

Yanagidaira is seen to disclose a printer controller installed for a printer that is connected to a network. (Yanagidaira, abstract; Fig. 1; and column 2, lines 4 to 64). More specifically, the printer controller of Yanagidaira is seen to monitor and set the operating state of the printer, where the operating states and the operation setting states of the printer are stored and recorded in a printer information database. (Yanagidaira, column 5, lines 15 to 27). The purpose of the printer information database of Yanagidaira is to manage the printer information associated with a printer. For example, each time communication with a particular printer occurs, the operating state (i.e., paper empty, paper jam, power off, etc.) of the printer is recorded in the printer information database, and when an operation setting state (i.e., operation mode, power-saving function, or setting of a paper feed or ejection destination) of the printer is received from a user, it is recorded in

the printer information database. (Yanagidaira, column 5, lines 15 to 27). Thus, the printer information database of Yanagidaira is seen to provide a location for storing the operating state of a printer and for recording the operating setting state of a printer issued by a user.

On the contrary, the present invention of independent Claim 1 describes a method for supporting printer maintenance by accessing one of a plurality of *printer configuration files* corresponding to the printer, where each configuration file includes a plurality of printer maintenance function names for a particular printer along with a plurality of printer maintenance commands corresponding to the printer maintenance function names.

According to the present invention, a common printer maintenance scheme is utilized for allowing a variety of users to access printer maintenance functions for maintaining a printer in good printing condition, wherein the scheme is general enough to support many different types of printers. The generality of the scheme is achieved by obtaining a particular printer's maintenance functions from the desired printer's corresponding configuration file to perform maintenance of the printer.

Yanagidaira is not seen to describe or suggest the foregoing features of the present invention. Specifically, the printer information database of Yanagidaira is not seen to disclose supporting performance of maintenance on a printer by accessing the printer's *configuration file*, where the configuration file includes *a plurality of printer maintenance function names* and *a plurality of printer maintenance commands* corresponding to the printer maintenance function names.

In this regard, Lauder is not seen to remedy the foregoing deficiencies of Yanagidaira. In particular, Lauder is seen to be directed to an interactive cable television system with the ability to capture a desired frame of video and then store the captured frame into memory. (Lauder, abstract; Fig. 14; and column 2, lines 1 to 42). Although Lauder is seen to disclose the use of an interactive cable television system, nowhere is Lauder seen to disclose or suggest supporting performance of maintenance on a printer by accessing the printer's *configuration file*, where the configuration file includes *a plurality of printer maintenance function names* and *a plurality of printer maintenance commands* corresponding to the printer maintenance function names.

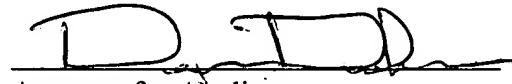
Based on the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest combination of features of independent Claim 1. Accordingly, independent Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. In addition, independent Claim 24 contains at least substantially similar features as those described above, and is therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to independent Claim 1.

The other pending claims in this application are dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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